

IN THE CLAIMS

Please replace all claims in the instant application with the listing below amending claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 13 and 16-18; adding claims 25-30; and canceling claims 19-24 as follows:

- 1 1. (Currently Amended) A lifting sling, said lifting sling comprising:  
2  
3 a plurality of core materials; and  
4  
5 a coating material, said coating material is sprayed onto said plurality of core  
6 materials, the thickness of said coating material is regulated in a predetermined  
7 pattern to achieve ~~the~~ desired operational properties of said lifting sling.  
8
- 1 2. (Previously Presented) The lifting sling in accordance with claim 1, wherein said  
2 coating material is selected from the group consisting of a polyurea elastomer, a  
3 polyurethane, or a hybrid polyurethane – polyurea elastomer.  
4
- 1 3. (Currently Amended) The lifting sling in accordance with claim [2]1, wherein said  
2 coating material has an operational temperature range of –40 to 175 degrees Celsius.  
3
- 1 4. (Currently Amended) The lifting sling in accordance with claim [2]1, wherein said  
2 coating material has a tensile strength in the range of up to 6,500 pounds per square inch,  
3 an elongation range of up to 300 percent, and a tear resistance in the range of up to 600  
4 pounds per linear inch.  
5
- 1 5. (Previously Presented) The lifting sling in accordance with claim 1, wherein said  
2 coating material includes at least one of the following additives:

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- 4 i) a catalyst;
- 5 ii) a stabilizer;
- 6 iii) a pigment;
- 7 iv) a fire retardant;
- 8 v) a static electricity reducing additive;
- 9 vi) an ultraviolet filtering additive; or
- 10 vii) a thermal cycling additive.

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1 6. (Previously Presented) The lifting sling in accordance with claim 1, wherein said  
2 plurality of core materials include at least one of the following:

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- 4 i) nylon;
- 5 ii) polyester;
- 6 iii) a synthetic fiber;
- 7 iv) polypropylene;
- 8 v) wire rope;
- 9 vi) steel core;
- 10 vii) cordage rope;
- 11 viii) yarn;
- 12 ix) NOMAX;
- 13 x) KEVLAR; or
- 14 xi) chain.

15

1 7. (Currently Amended) The lifting sling in accordance with claim 1, wherein said lifting  
2 sling further [~~comprises~~] comprising a safety core, said safety core being bonded [~~with~~]  
3 proximate to said plurality of core materials.

4

1 8. (Previously Presented) The lifting sling in accordance with claim 7, wherein said safety  
2 core traverses said lifting sling.

3

1 9. (Previously Presented) The lifting sling in accordance with claim 7, wherein said safety  
2 core is located, with respect to said plurality of core materials, in at least one of the  
3 following locations:

4

- 5 i) seam located;  
6 ii) perimeter located; or  
7 iii) centrally located.

8

1 10. (Previously Presented) The lifting sling in accordance with claim 7, wherein said  
2 safety core is interconnected with at least one of the following:

3

- 4 i) an indicator; or  
5 ii) an electronic system.

6

1 11. (Previously Presented) The lifting sling in accordance with claim 1, wherein prior to  
2 applying said coating material said plurality of core materials are selectively temperature  
3 adjusted and or pre-tensioned.

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1 12. (Previously Presented) The lifting sling in accordance with claim 1, wherein a multi-  
2 core lifting sling is formed by applying a seaming layer of said coating material to bond  
3 together at least one of the following:

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- 5           i)       a plurality of said plurality of core materials to form said multi-core  
6                   lifting sling; or  
7           ii)       a plurality of previously coated said plurality of core materials to form  
8                   said multi-core lifting sling.

9  
1    13. (Currently Amended) The lifting sling in accordance with claim 12, wherein said  
2    multi-core lifting sling further [~~comprises~~] comprising a safety core, said safety core  
3    utilizes at least one of the following configurations:

- 4  
5           i)       a single said safety core is utilized to traverse each span of said multi-core  
6                   lifting sling; or  
7           ii)       a plurality of said safety core are utilized where a unique said safety core  
8                   traverses each span of said multi-core lifting sling.

9  
1    14. (Previously Presented) The lifting sling in accordance with claim 12, wherein said  
2    multi-core lifting sling is formed having multiple free moving spans by applying said  
3    seaming layer only to the end portions of said multi-core lifting sling.

4  
1    15. (Previously Presented) The lifting sling in accordance with claim 14, wherein said  
2    multi-core lifting sling has interconnecting ribs.

3  
1    16. (Currently Amended) The lifting sling in accordance with claim 1, wherein said  
2    lifting sling further [~~comprises~~] comprising at least one of the following:

- 3  
4           i)       an indicator [~~attached to said lifting sling~~] secured proximate to said  
5                   plurality of core materials; or

- 6           ii)     an electronic system [~~attached to said lifting sling~~] secured proximate to  
7                     said plurality of core materials.

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1     17. (Currently Amended) The lifting sling in accordance with claim 16, wherein said  
2     electronic system further [~~comprises~~] comprising at least one of the following:

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- 4           i)     a microcontroller;  
5           ii)    a graphical user interface;  
6           iii)   a keypad;  
7           iv)    a touch pad;  
8           v)     a plurality of general purpose inputs and outputs;  
9           vi)    a safety core interface;  
10          vii)   a lifting sling measurement and dynamics interface;  
11          viii)   an RFID interface;  
12          ix)    an IRDA interface;  
13          x)     a transceiver;  
14          xi)    a wireless data link;  
15          xii)   a LAN interface;  
16          xiii)   a WAN interface;  
17          xiv)   a serial data link;  
18          xv)    a GPS interface;  
19          xvi)   a power supply;  
20          xvii)   a flash memory;  
21          xviii)  a read only memory;  
22          xix)   a real time clock;  
23          xx)    an EEROM; or  
24          xxi)   a NOVRAM.

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1 18. (Currently Amended) The lifting sling in accordance with claim [47] 16, ~~[wherein~~  
2 ~~said safety core interface is interconnected with a safety core, said electronic system~~  
3 ~~based in part on monitoring said safety core indicates operational condition, and or~~  
4 ~~suitability for use of said lifting sling]~~ wherein said indicator and or said electronic  
5 system indicates the operational condition of said lifting sling, the suitability for use of  
6 said lifting sling, and or the security status of an article secured by said lifting sling.

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1 19-24 (Canceled)

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1 25. (Newly Added) A lifting sling, said lifting sling comprising:

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3 a plurality of core materials; and

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5 a coating material, said coating material is disposed onto said plurality of core  
6 materials, said coating material is selected from the group consisting of a polyurea  
7 elastomer, a polyurethane, or a hybrid polyurethane – polyurea elastomer;

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9 wherein the location and thickness of said coating material is regulated to achieve desired  
10 operational properties of said lifting sling.

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1 26. (Newly Added) The lifting sling in accordance with claim 25, further comprising a  
2 cover, said cover being fitted around said plurality of core materials, said cover is coated  
3 with said coating material.

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1 27. (Newly Added) The lifting sling in accordance with claim 25, further comprising a  
2 cover, said cover being fitted around said plurality of core materials, said cover is coated  
3 and secured into position with said coating material.  
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1 28. (Newly Added) The lifting sling in accordance with claim 25, wherein said lifting  
2 sling further comprising an electronic system secured proximate to said plurality of core  
3 materials, wherein by way of said electronic system said lifting sling data communicates  
4 with a plurality of data processing devices and or a plurality of global network based data  
5 processing resources.  
6

1 29. (Newly Added) A lifting sling, said lifting sling comprising:  
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3 a plurality of core materials; and  
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5 a coating material, said coating material is sprayed onto said plurality of core  
6 materials, said coating material is a polyurea elastomer, a polyurethane, or a  
7 hybrid polyurethane – polyurea elastomer.  
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1 30. (Newly Added) The lifting sling in accordance with claim 29, wherein said lifting  
2 sling further comprising an electronic system configured to monitor and or determine at  
3 least one of the following:  
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- 5 i) the suitability for use of said lifting sling;  
6 ii) the operational condition of said lifting sling; or  
7 iii) the security status of an article being secured by said lifting sling.